12/28/66

Dear Jim,

Thanks for the added letter of the Foreign Operations file and for the copy of Merriman Smith's story of November 23, 1966. If you ever get a complete text of his story of the preceding day, large enough to read, I'd very much like a copy of that, for some day I'll needle him into debating me, in either the Nat, Press Club or some publication, and I'm going to be loaded. I do not think anyone has written ~~him~~ as totally irresponsible or inaccurate a manner. Or, some day I'll write a story on what it takes to win the Pulitzer Prize. Just today I wrote his boss again saying I'm waiting for him to try and undo the damage Smith's story has done and is doing.

Tried to phone when I got back to SF but got only the answering service. Will you please thank Harve and Carl for their kind note and tell them that Larry Schiller, Capitol Records, Hollywood, has completed a documentary record for release 1/9 (press copies available 1/7) that, Larry told me on the 20th, has some new and startlingly important information on it. He also has much good tape, but whether or not he will or can make it available I do not know. One thing is the sobbing account of Mrs. Walthers of how she could have prevented the assassination if she hadn't thought the rifleman she saw in a different window was a Secret Service man (see my chapter "Eyes So Blind", dealing with a similar story by Rowland).

You people were all very kind, both on and after the show. I'll remember it a long time, especially the decency on the show and the thoughtfulness of the little refreshment after it, for I had had but two hours sleep in the previous 46 hours.

Please do not say anything about it, for I'll be back again. That nasty phone call caught me by surprise. Only later did I recall what I did with that file I bought. I took it to the FBI! I'd like to keep that in reserve for the next time. Unless there is some kind of an unexpected change, I'll be back by the end of February, for Joe Pyne has asked me to launch WHITEWASH III on his TV show. I'm probably the first man he was ever kind to on his radio program.

Hope you all have a good year coming.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg